

Applicant Details

First Name **Mihdi**
 Last Name **Afnan**
 Citizenship Status **U. S. Citizen**
 Email Address mihdi.afnan@berkeley.edu
 Address

Address
Street
1730 Derby Street
City
BERKELEY
State/Territory
California
Zip
94703
Country
United States

Contact Phone Number **2407510921**

Applicant Education

BA/BS From **University of Arizona**
 Date of BA/BS **May 2017**
 JD/LLB From **University of California, Berkeley**
School of Law
<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/careers/>
 Date of JD/LLB **May 11, 2022**
 Class Rank **School does not rank**
 Law Review/Journal **Yes**
 Journal(s) **Berkeley Journal of International Law**
 Moot Court Experience **Yes**
 Moot Court Name(s) **Galloway**

Bar Admission**Prior Judicial Experience**

Judicial Internships/
 Externships **Yes**

Post-graduate Judicial Law Clerk **No**

Specialized Work Experience

Recommenders

Gould, Jonathan
gould@berkeley.edu
Chemerinsky, Erwin
echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu
5106426483
Joondeph, Bradley
bjoondeph@scu.edu
6505752801

This applicant has certified that all data entered in this profile and any application documents are true and correct.

Mihdi Afnan

1730 Derby Street, Berkeley, CA 94703 | (240) 751-0921 | mihdi.afnan@berkeley.edu

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Eric N. Vitaliano
United States District Court, Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Judge Vitaliano:

I am a third-year student at the University of California, Berkeley, writing to express my interest for a clerkship in your chambers for the next available position. I'm especially excited about clerking in your chambers given your dedication to public service over the course of your distinguished career. Specifically, I welcome the opportunity to learn from your experiences as someone who worked in both private practice and as a public representative. Further, given that I grew up on the east coast, I spent many vacations in New York and have always hoped to end up working there. Clerking in your chambers will provide me the opportunity to make that pivot.

During my time externing for the Hon. Beth L. Freeman (N.D. Cal.), I gained insight into a clerk's responsibilities. There, I drafted multiple bench memos and orders with her clerks. On each project, I presented an oral argument on my research and conclusion to Judge Freeman before writing anything. On some matters I was right, on some I was wrong. I became more exact in my research, more efficient in my reading, and more pithy in my writing. These were the skills I brought to WilmerHale where I worked on assignments ranging from a Supreme Court cert petition to an international white collar criminal case to a novel antitrust matter.

My time in law school will also help me excel as a clerk. As a journalist, I learned that writing is an art requiring patience, work, and an ability to reflect on and criticize oneself. I've dedicated much of my law school career to honing this art. My participation in moot court, my role as both Blog Editor and Senior Articles Editor for my journal, and my various writing classes have provided me opportunities to not only practice my craft, but to also see where my weaknesses lie. I enjoy writing and I enjoy getting better at writing. Separately, mock trial has fostered in me the ability to formulate legal arguments quickly, to present them intelligibly, and to speak publicly. It has been an enormous part of my academic career, and I hope to use what I have learned in your chambers and in my career moving forward.

Enclosed please find my resume, transcripts, writing sample. Letters of recommendation from Dean Erwin Chemerinsky (echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu), Professor Jonathan Gould (gould@berkeley.edu), and Professor Bradley Joondeph (bjoondeph@scu.edu) will be sent under separate cover.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (240) 751-0921 or mihdi.afnan@berkeley.edu. I appreciate your consideration and welcome any opportunity to speak further about this position.

Respectfully,

Mihdi Afnan

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Education

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law

Berkeley, CA

Juris Doctor Candidate

Class of 2022

Honors: Dean's Fellowship; Prosser Award (second highest grade): White Collar Crime and Trial Competition; NCTC Trial Competition Semi-Finalist and Best Closing Argument

Activities: Berkeley Trial Team; *Berkeley Journal of International Law*, Senior Articles Editor, Blog/Online Editor; Middle Eastern Law Student Association

Santa Clara University School of Law

Santa Clara, CA

First-Year Legal Studies, GPA: 4.02, Rank: Top 5%

2019 – 2020

Honors: Emery Law Scholarship; Witkin Award: Torts; CALI Award for Excellence: Torts

Activities: Galloway Moot Court Quarterfinalist; Selected to join the Internal Trial Team; Middle Eastern Law Student Association

University of Arizona

Tucson, AZ

B.A., Journalism, Sociology (Minor), Government and Public Policy (Minor)

2013 – 2017

Honors: Finley Newswriting Competition Nominee; Drew Nicolas Gyorke Memorial Award Finalist

Activities: Captain of the lacrosse team; Vice President of the Baha'i Club

Experience

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr

San Francisco, CA

Summer Associate

May 2021 – July 2021

Research topics in a variety of litigation matters. Write memoranda to attorneys on my findings. Network with attorneys from across the country.

Honorable Beth L. Freeman, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of CA

San Jose, CA

Judicial Extern

May 2020 – Aug. 2020

Draft opinions for civil and criminal cases. Research and draft memoranda on a variety of issues including anti-trust matters, motions to transfer venue, and motions to amend a complaint. Summarize facts of cases before the court for supervising clerks and Judge Freeman. Review parties' filings. Attend weekly virtual hearings. Organize a diversity initiative with other externs and prepare a set of recommendations to the judges to increase diversity and inclusivity within the court.

Law Office of Leon Geller

Rockville, MD

Legal Assistant

Nov. 2018 – July 2019

Conduct legal research for criminal cases. Draft court documents, including motions in limine, expungement forms, and motions to continue. Review discovery and prepare summaries of any audio or video discovery for attorneys. Interview and communicate with clients daily.

WardChisholm, P.C.

Bethesda, MD

Legal Assistant

June 2017 – July 2018

Prepare legal documents including IRS forms, deeds, and estate planning documents. Manage about 30 cases simultaneously, including keeping track of bank records, bonds, and estates. Lead legal assistant team on all probate matters. Write letters, memoranda, and other documents for transmittal to clients and attorneys.

Bours & Lucero, LLC: Attorneys at Law

Rockville, MD

Summer Intern

May 2016 – Aug. 2016

Draft legal documents, including Notices of Appearance and expungement forms. Implement a new electronic filing system. Organize and file years of prior client documents.

Skills and Interests

Languages: Farsi (fluent)

Skills and Interests: Photography, soccer, and cooking.